



## FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329

(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

November 9, 2011

Douglas Widtfeldt

**REDACTED**

### **Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 10/675; Douglas Widtfeldt**

Dear Mr. Widtfeldt:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),<sup>1</sup> found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a referral from the Secretary of State that alleged you failed to file your quarterly Lobbyist Report (Form 615) for the periods July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 and October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Additionally, the Secretary of State alleged you failed to file your quarterly Report of Lobbying Firm (Form 625) for the periods January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010, April 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, and July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Sections 86113 and 86114 of the Act require that lobbyists and lobbying firms file campaign disclosure statements.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that you failed to file Form 615 by the October 31, 2010 and the January 31, 2011 deadlines. Additionally, the FPPC found that you failed to file Form 625 by the April 30, 2010, July 31, 2010, and October 31, 2010 deadlines. The timing of the Act's filing obligations for lobbyists and lobbying firms is based on California's biennial legislative cycle. See section 86106. Lobbyists and lobbying firms are obligated to fulfill their quarterly reporting requirements until 1) the end of the legislative session in which the lobbyist or lobbying firm is active or 2) the lobbyist or lobbying firm files the appropriate termination paperwork. See section 86107.

Your action violated the Act since you failed to file Form 615 and Form 625 in a timely manner. However, since you have retroactively terminated your status as a lobbyist and a

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<sup>1</sup> The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

lobbying firm, we are closing your case with this warning letter. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact Alisha Heilman at (916) 322-7486 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

 REDACTED 

Gary S. Winuk, Chief  
Enforcement Division

GSW/ah